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AMEMBASSY MADRID
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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ROME ALSO FOR VATICAN

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: SHUM, AR, SP, XT
SUBJ: ARGENTINE MOTHERS REPORT NEW DISAPPEARANCES

1. SUMMARY: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO ARE ON A SIX-NATION TOUR OF
EUROPE. IN MADRID, THEIR FIRST STOP, THEY TOLD A PRESS
CONFERENCE THAT "THREE NEW DISAPPEARANCES" HAD BEEN
REPORTED IN ARGENTINA IN JANUARY. NEITHER WE NOR OUR
CONTACTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS CAN FIND INFORMATION THAT
SUPPORTS THAT CHARGE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE ARGENTINE PRESS IS REPORTING THE TRIP OF THE
PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP

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"MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO" TO SPAIN, ITALY, FRANCE,
WEST GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS. PRESS

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REPORTS OF THE MOTHERS' FEBRUARY 1 PRESS CONFERENCE IN MADRID QUOTED THEM AS HAVING SAID THAT "THREE NEW DISAPPEARANCES" HAD BEEN REPORTED IN ARGENTINA IN JANUARY. THE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION, MRS. HEBE DE BONAFINI, SAID THAT ONE OF THE THREE WAS RICARDO HAIDAR. SHE DID NOT NAME THE OTHER TWO.

3. (U) PREVIOUS PRESS REPORTS ABOUT HAIDAR STATED THAT HE WAS AN ARGENTINE WHO WAS ONE OF THREE SURVIVORS OF THE AUGUST 1972 EXECUTIONS OF 19 PRISONERS IN THE WAKE OF A MASS ESCAPE FROM TRELEW PRISON. HAIDAR REPORTEDLY WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON LATER, AND FLED THE COUNTRY IN 1977. HIS MOTHER, WHO LIVES IN MEXICO, REPORTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS THAT HAIDAR HAD DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA BETWEEN DECEMBER 18 AND 20, 1982. A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS WAS FILED ON HIS BEHALF ON JANUARY 10 BY THE CENTER FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES (CELS).

4. [REDACTED] CELS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON JANUARY 18 THAT THERE WERE SOME UNUSUAL ASPECTS TO THE HAIDAR CASE. CELS THINKS THAT HAIDAR WAS A MONTONERO, AND THAT HE PROBABLY RETURNED TO ARGENTINA ILLEGALLY LAST YEAR. CELS HAS NOT SO FAR RECEIVED A REPLY TO THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS.

5. (U) CONCERNING THE OTHER TWO ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCES THAT BONAFINI MENTIONED IN MADRID, WE HAVE NO IDEA TO WHOM SHE WAS REFERRING, AND NEITHER DOES CELS NOR THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO, WITH WHOM WE CHECKED. SHE MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO THE KIDNAPPING OF A LABOR LEADER WHO WAS HELD FOR FIVE HOURS THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 16, POSSIBLY BY PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN

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DISCHARGED BY THE UNION. SHE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO AN ALLEGED KIDNAPPING OF A YOUTH IN ROSARIO ON JANUARY 3 WHO APPEARED A DAY OR TWO LATER. HE WAS POSSIBLY PICKED UP BY AN ANTI-DRUG SQUAD OF THE GOVERNMENT.
CHLAUDEMAN

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